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EXAMINER

VU, THANH T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2174

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/665,299

Applicant(s)

JALON ET AL.

Examiner

Thanh T. Vu

Art Unit

2174

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-66 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-66 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 17-32 and 55-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claims are not limited to tangible embodiments. In view of applicant's disclosure, specification paragraph [0032], the medium is not limited to tangible embodiments, instead being defined as including both tangible embodiments (e.g., magnetic disk storage media) and intangible embodiments (e.g., propagated signal). Such signal claims are ineligible for patent protection because they do not fall within any of the four statutory classes of 101.

Claims 33-48 and 61-66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claims recite "the data processing system" is non-statutory for at least the reason that they are not tangibly embodied in a manner so as to be executable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 2, 5-14, 17, 18, 21-30, 33-34, and 37-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Abdelhadi et al. ("Abdelhadi", U.S. Pat. No. 6,486,894).

Per claim 1, Abdelhadi teaches a method to display user interface elements on a data processing system, the method comprising:

automatically determining, based on a primary color, a plurality of secondary colors for the user interface elements (col. 3, lines 32-37; determining a color from the display register);
and

displaying the user interface elements using the plurality of secondary colors (col. 5, lines 1-3; 38-41; col. 8, lines 1-5; different colors for GUI elements) .

Per claim 2, Abdelhadi teaches a method as in claim 1, wherein the primary color and the plurality of secondary colors have substantially same Hue (col. 5, lines 38-41; col. 8, lines 1-5; monochromatic color).

Per claim 5, Abdelhadi teaches a method as in claim 1, wherein said determining comprises: computing color components of the plurality of secondary colors according to color components of the primary color (col. 5, lines 38-43; computing color).

Per claim 6, Abdelhadi teaches a method as in claim 1, wherein said determining comprises: computing color components of one of the plurality of secondary colors based on color components of the primary color and color components of a plurality of pre-designed secondary colors that are associated respectively with a plurality of pre-designed primary colors (fig. 3; col. 5, lines 1-5 and lines 38-44; computing contrasting color based on display color).

Per claim 7, Abdelhadi teaches a method as in claim 6, wherein the color components of the one of the plurality of secondary colors are discontinuous functions of the color components

of the primary color (col. 5, lines 20-37; the examiner consider contrasting color to be discontinuous functions of color components).

Per claim 8, Abdelhadi teaches a method as in claim 6, wherein the color components of the one of the plurality of secondary colors are continuous functions of the color components of the primary color and, the method further comprises: selecting one from a plurality of candidates to color a user interface element, the plurality of candidates comprising the one of the plurality of secondary colors (col. 5, lines 38-65; col. 8, lines 1-5; the examiner considers monochromatic color to be continuous function of the color components).

Per claim 9, Abdelhadi teaches a method as in claim 1, further comprising: determining which one of a plurality of regions in a color space is the primary color in (col. 3, lines 32-37; determining color of GUI components from the display registers).

Per claim 10, Abdelhadi teaches a method as in claim 9, wherein said determining the plurality of secondary colors is performed based on a result of said determining which one of the plurality of regions in the color space is the primary color in (col. 5, lines 20-42; col. 8, lines 1-5; determining contrasting colors or same shade colors).

Per claim 11, Abdelhadi teaches a method as in claim 1, further comprising: generating an icon image for the user interface elements using at least one of the plurality of secondary colors (fig. 3; icons 314, 316, 318; col. 5, lines 1-5; col. 8, lines 1-5; generating GUI component with different colors).

Per claim 12, Abdelhadi teaches a method as in claim 11, wherein said generating comprises: creating a plurality of icon images according to a plurality of image models, each of the plurality of image model being associated with one of a plurality of regions a color space and

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mixing the plurality of icon images according to a position of the primary color in relation with the plurality of regions in the color space (fig. 3, col. 5, lines 1-17; col. 8, lines 1-5; generating GUI components with different contrasting color or monochromatic colors).

Per claim 13, Abdelhadi teaches a method as in claim 12, wherein the plurality of regions comprises a dark color region and a bright color region and said mixing is according to a measurement of distance to a boundary that separates the dark color region and the bright color region in the color space (col. 5, lines 55-65; col. 6, lines 5-25; mixing contrasting colors based on background and foreground information color).

Per claim 14, Abdelhadi teaches a method as in claim 1, wherein said displaying comprises: selecting one from candidates including at least one of the plurality of secondary colors to apply to one of the user interface elements (fig. 3; col. 5, lines 1-10).

Claims 17-18 are rejected under the same rationale as claims 1-2 respectively.

Claims 21-30 are rejected under the same rationale as claims 5-14 respectively.

Claims 33-34 are rejected under the same rationale as claims 1-2 respectively.

Claims 37-46 are rejected under the same rationale as claims 5-14 respectively.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3-4, 19-20, 35-36, and 49-66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abdelhadi et al. ("Abdelhadi", U.S. Pat. No. 6,486,894) and Andrew et al. ("Andrew", U.S. Pat. No. 5,371,844).

Per claim 3, Although Abdelhadi teaches colors that are displayed on the display screen are selectable by the user (col. 1, lines 39-41), Abdelhadi does not specifically teach displaying a plurality of colors on a display device of the data processing system and receiving user input selecting one of the plurality of colors as the primary color. However, Andrew teaches displaying a plurality of colors on a display device of the data processing system and receiving user input selecting one of the plurality of colors as the primary color (fig. 5C; col. 8, lines 13-22; color palette to change the colors of various GUI components). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the teaching of Andrew in the invention of Abdelhadi in order to provide the user with a GUI that the user can quickly and easily modify a color of an object or component to user's liking.

Per claim 4, the modified Abdelhadi teaches a method as in claim 3, wherein said determining comprises: selecting the plurality of secondary colors from a plurality of pre-designed colors according to the primary color (Abdelhadi, col. 5, lines 20-37; determine contrasting color for display).

Claims 19-20 are rejected under the same rationale as claims 3-4 respectively.

Claims 35-36 are rejected under the same rationale as claims 3-4 respectively.

Per claim 49, Abdelhadi teaches a method of controlling a graphical user interface of a data processing system, the method comprising:

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automatically determining, based on a color, a plurality of secondary colors for a corresponding plurality of user interface elements (col. 3, lines 32-37; determining a color from the display register); and

displaying the user interface elements using the plurality of secondary colors (col. 5, lines 1-3; 38-41; col. 8, lines 1-5; different colors for GUI elements).

Although, Abdelhadi teaches colors that are displayed on the display screen are selectable by the user (col. 1, lines 39-41), Abdelhadi does not specifically teach presenting a range of colors which appear to vary substantially continuous manner and receiving a user input selecting the color from said range of colors. However, Andrew teaches presenting a range of colors which appear to vary substantially continuous manner and receiving a user input selecting the color from said range of colors (fig. 5C; color wheel 224; col. 8, lines 13-22; color palette to change the colors of various GUI components). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the teaching of Andrew in the invention of Abdelhadi in order to provide the user with a GUI that the user can quickly and easily modify a color of an object or component to user's liking.

Per claim 50, the modified Abdelhadi teaches a method as in claim 49, wherein said automatically determining is based upon a predetermined mathematical process, executed by said data processing system, which selects said plurality of colors without user intervention (Abdelhadi, col. 5, lines 38-67; computing of color).

Per claim 51, the modified Abdelhadi teach a method as in claim 49, wherein said range of colors is presented as a color spectrum in a color wheel (Andrew, fig. 5C, color wheel 224).

Per claim 52, the modified Abdelhadi teaches a method as in claim 49, wherein said plurality of user interface elements include at least one of: a) window title bar; b) text highlight color; c) text; d) control button; e) window resize control; and f) scheduled events in a calendar (Abdelhadi, figs. 2 and 3; i.e. control button 218;).

Per claim 53, the modified Abdelhadi teaches a method as in claim 49, wherein one of said plurality of user interface elements is displayed in said color from said range of colors (Andrew, fig. 5C; col. 8, lines 15-22).

Per claim 54, the modified Abdelhadi teaches a method as in claim 49, wherein at least one of said plurality of user interface elements is a control, which upon activation by a user, causes said data processing system to perform an action (Abdelhadi, fig. 2, col. 4, lines 25-30).

Claims 55-60 are rejected under the same rationale as claims 49-54 respectively.

Claims 61-66 are rejected under the same rationale as claims 49-54 respectively.

Claims 15-16, 31-32, and 47-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abdelhadi et al. ("Abdelhadi", U.S. Pat. No. 6,486,894), and Yamade et al. ("Yamade", U.S. Pat. No. 5,895,451)

Per claim 15, Abdelhadi teaches a method as in claim 1, having the primary color is associated with one of the plurality of GUI elements, and secondary colors are associated with a plurality of GUI elements (col. 5, lines 1-10 and col. 8, lines 1-5), but does not specifically teaches displaying information from a plurality of calendars in a calendar interface wherein the primary color is associated with one of the plurality of calendars and wherein the user interface elements displayed using the plurality of secondary colors are associated with the one of the

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plurality of calendars. However, Yamade displaying information from a plurality of calendars in a calendar interface wherein the primary color is associated with one of the plurality of calendars and wherein the user interface elements displayed using the plurality of secondary colors are associated with the one of the plurality of calendars (figs. 11 and 12; setting colors for calendar elements). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the teaching of Yamade in the invention of Abdelhadi in order to provide the user with a scheduling display device which makes users easily understand not only schedules but also starting times of the respectively schedule (col. 1, lines 34-37).

Per claim 16, the modified Abdelhadi teaches a method as in claim 15, further comprising: selecting an arbitrary color as the primary color for the one of the plurality of calendars (Yamade, figs. 11 and 12).

Claims 31-32 are rejected under the same rationale as claims 15-16 respectively.

Claims 47-48 are rejected under the same rationale as claims 15-16 respectively.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Henshaw et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,619,637) discloses method and system for automatic storage of an object within a container object within a graphical user interface withing a data processing system.

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Inquiries

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh T. Vu whose telephone number is (571) 272-4073. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur and every other Fri 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine L. Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Thanh T. Vu
Patent Examiner
AU 2174, TC 2100